Numb. 72.

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*Of the Favourites fine House in* Guelderland. *Of the House near* Chelsea-*Colledge.*
*Of the Mischiefs of Favourites to Crowned Heads, and the People they Govern.*
*Of the Resumption of Grants.*

From Saturday December the 26th, to Wednesday December the 30th, 1702.

*Country-m.* MAster *Observator*, pray proceed, according to Promise, in your Account of your great Favourite in the late Reign: It is not only Diverting, but Profitable. Thus we know by what means our *Funds* became *Deficient*; and the Eyes of the People are hereby opened to see who were the Men that *Betray'd* and *Impoverish'd* us in the late Reign.

*Obs.* I think I promis'd you an Account of his fine House in *Guelderland*; which when you have heard, you'll admire that ever such a Stately Fabrick should be Built to cover a *Mushroom*. The first Year after the Peace of *Reswick*, so shameful to the *English* Nation, the Foundations of the Noble Structure were laid; the King having given him leave to Build, at his Charge, such a House as my Lord *Ranelagh*'s at *Chelsea*: But the Favourite esteeming himself ten times more considerable than the said Lord, he contriv'd his House as big again as *R*——'s, and the Gardens ten times larger; *R*——'s being but 35 Acres, and *A*---'s above 400: Workmen of all sorts were sent from *England*. The House being to be Built after the *English* manner. The House is Built of Stone, except the Party-Walls, which are Brick; all the Fronts are Nobly Adorned; 'tis railed a' Top, and Urns, and Statues are placed in the Corners and Centers; the Roof is covered with Lead; the Inside far exceeds the Outside; it being so incomparably Finished, that the Curious from all parts come to see it; all the Chimney-work was sent ready made from *England*, as well as the Looking-Glasses, for the Chimneys and Peers; all which is new in that Country. His House contains five compleat Apartments, furnish'd that nothing can be finer; the Beds, Chairs, Hangings and Window-Curtains, are of the finest *Damask*, with *Gold* or *Silver* Lace, all made here. The Furniture of one of the Bed-Chambers took up 1749 Yards of *Genoa Damask*, at 24 Shillings *per* Yard; the *Gold Lace* came to 800 *l*; and the Fashion to 300 *l*. more.

*Country-m.* A very pretty Story, Master *Observator!* Here's near 4000 *l*. for the Furniture of one Room. I could never learn that you had three Pence from King *William* tho' you have done your Country ten times the Service, that this Foreigner was capable of doing.

*Obs.* That was none of King *William*'s Fault: He was a Stranger to our Country, and knew not the *Merits* and *Sufferings* of our Natives. The *Neglect* of us proceeded from the *Virtue* of the *English Triumvirate*, and other great Saints of little value, who were not contented only to Discard us from the Kings Favour, but to set the *Modern Whigs* in the City to Blast our *Reputation* with their Poluted Breath, calling us *The Kings Enemies*; and all this because we were out of Love with *Cheats*, *Rogues*, *Knaves* and *Fools*, *Standing Armies*, Notions of *Conquest*, and other means of Slavery in King *William*'s Reign, as in the Reigns of any of the Preceding Kings.——But to return to our fine Favourite; his Gardens are fine beyond Expression, such as are not to be seen in *England*. There's all the Variety imaginable; *Terrasses*, *Dark Walks*, *Groves*, *Canals*, all sorts of *Water-Works*, many *Green-Houses*, Stor'd with all Curiosities, several *Summer-Houses*, *Cabinets*, *Grotto*'s, many Costly *Statues*, *Vases*, *Urns*, and so many Cast *Flower-Pots* for the *Terrasses*, as Sir *John G——n*'s Brother was two Years a making. The *Kitchens* and *Fruit-Gardens* are at a distance, and out of Sight. The *Kitchen* and all Offices are suitable to such a *Princely Design*. At a reasonable distance, are the *Stables*, *French* Built; where there are so many fine *Pads*, *Hunters*, *War-Horses*, and *Coach-Horses* of several Countries, that no Prince in *Germany* can shew the like. At a good distance from the *Stables*, near the *Water*, is the *Hunting Equipage*, which one would take to be a Village, there being Kennels for *Stag-Hounds*, *Buck-Hounds*, *Fox-Hounds*, *Hare-Hounds* and *Terriers*, with Lodgings for their Attendance, besides *Setting-Dogs*, *Gun-Dogs*, &c.——Next is the Place where the *Game-Keepers* live; there is all sorts of *Tame Fowl*: There *Pheasants* are bred to turn out in the Woods. The Yearly Charge of this *Hunting* and *Game* Equipage, cannot be less than 3000 *l*. and the Stables as much, for that's a Dear Country: There are no Market Towns as here. And the *Gardens* 2000 *l*. They have been at Work on that House near five Years, and 'tis not yet Finish'd. What Money has been laid out, is not to be imagin'd; for it has cost twice more than it would cost in *England*, the Materials and Workmen coming so far; you may Modestly compute the Yearly Expence there to have been as much

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as the whole of my Lord *R*——'s Houſe, which cannot be leſs than 70000 *l.* for he has Raiſed and Levelled Nine Acres of Ground, the Work of which alone, muſt coſt more than the two Houſes he told the *Houſe of Commons* he had Sold to Build his Houſe, for they came but to 6000 *l.* His Houſe is thought little, becauſe it is ſo near ſuch a Bulk of Buildings. He has five *Green-Houſes*, Stored with Noble Greens, *Out-Houſes* fit for *Palaces*, ſeveral little ſcattered Buildings in the *Gardens*, and *Out-Walks:* There are two Acres in cloſe Covered Walks, the Wood-Work of which, ſingly coſt 1600 *l.* about two Years ſince. There was 24000 *l.* laid out in the Gardens, beſides the Purchaſe of ſome of the Ground, which is not contained in the Grant; and his Gard'ner values himſelf, that he has ſo Regulated the Gardens, that they now coſt but 400 *l.* a Year keeping. So I think I am modeſt in valuing the whole Expence there but at 70000 *l.*

Now *A*——*s* Houſe which was only deſigned only to be a Siſter to *R*——*s*, proves to be a Daughter of *Verſails*. And if one Houſe has cauſed ſuch Arrears to the Officers of the Army when they had *Half Pay* given them, no wonder if the other has run the *Civil Liſt* a Year and three Quarters behind Hand.

*Country-m.* Well 'tis a fine thing to be a Favourite: They are much happier than the Prince. But if he ſpent ſo much Money in Building, what could he do for the other Neceſſaries of Quality? Without doubt he ſhook his Elbows as well as other Folk: And did not lay out all his Money in Rich Silks for Beds and Window Curtains; ſome without doubt was expended on Petticoats. At this Rate the King muſt have had no Money for himſelf, and every Body knows His Majeſty laid out much Money at *Hampton* Court and *Kenſington*, which was well paid, and remains with us. I think we had better have kept two ſuch Kings as His late Majeſty, than one ſuch Courtier and Favourite as *A*——.

*Obſ.* This Favourite had a conſiderable Revenue in Places and Poſt in the Army, as I told you before, and yet was entirely kept by the King, having a Table allowed him, and his Horſes in the Kings Stables; and beſides that one way or other, he made Money of moſt Places and Offices in *England* and *Ireland*, either by Selling them directly or having ſuch a Yearly, or ſuch a Sum of Money for his Intereſt; and then he took care to make often Removals into Offices on purpoſe to raiſe himſelf Money: 'Tis Notoriouſly true, that he went halves with a certain *Pay-Maſter*, and that he had large Grants in his own Name, and for things in Truſt here and in *Ireland*, as appears by the Report of the *Truſtees* to the *Houſe of Commons*, he alſo Sold ſeveral Grants, even to *Papiſts*, by very Indirect Means. Such Grants as he could not Sell, he would paſs in Truſt till he could Sell them, as the Grant of all the *Arrears due to the Crown* paſt in the Name of an Officer of the *Exchequer*, and a Grant to *Williams*, who had been his Footman, of ſeveral *Quit-Rents in Wales*. And the like was done by ſeveral other Perſons.

*Country-m.* Here's Grant upon Grant with a Witneſs! God grant that poor *England* may be Plagued with no more ſuch Favourites! But, Sir, does not this Bill now before the *Houſe of Commons* take off all theſe Grants? Are they not for the Future to be applied to the uſe of the Publick? If ſo, 'tis a very good Reſolution of the *Commons*.

*Obſ.* The Reſumption of thoſe Grants was deſigned by them for that End and Purpoſe; and the thing is not only *Juſt* and *Reaſonable* in it ſelf, but it is highly *Advantagious* to the People, not only in eaſing them in Reſpect to Levies, but in keeping them from being devoured by thoſe Catterpillars call'd Favourites; who are no other than Commiſſioned Freebooters and Pirates, to Rob and Plunder the Publick; and much worſe than this is the Influence they have over Crowned Heads, by miſleading them from their own and their Peoples true Intereſt, into the wild and intricate Mazes of *Tyranny* and *Uſurpation*, in Defiance of the Known and Equitable Laws of a free People and Nation; and very often ſo Diametrically oppoſite to our Conſtitution, that one would wonder at the Aſſurance of thoſe Men who advance ſuch Impracticable Notions, that lay themſelves open to the Hatred and Revenge of the Populace. Who could have thought that the *Laws*, the *Liberties*, the *Free-Cuſtoms* and *Birth-Rights* of *Engliſhmen*, ſhould have been in danger by Reaſon of a ſtanding Army, in the Reign of King *William*, when the *End* and *Deſign* of his coming over was to Free us from that *Evil*? The effecting of which was the Meritorious Reaſon of his being made King: Theſe Excentric and Retrograde Motions are owing to the Influence of Favourites, than which no great Evil can happen to a Nation.

The Parliament now has taken the ſureſt way to Remedy this Evil; the *Reſumption of Grants*, proves the *Uncertainty of their Tenure*; and Favourites will not be ſo Ambitious of getting Grants in One Reign, which they are ſure to loſe in the next. I do not pretend to Adviſe my Superiors; but if the Grantees were made Accountable to the Publick for the Profits of the Grants received by them, it would entirely Defeat all Pretenſions of that Nature. I leave it to the Gentlemen of the long Gown to Determine, *Whether any Perſon is in Legal Poſſeſſion of any Part, or Parcel of the Crown-Lands any longer than the King or Queens Lives, who made the Grant thereof, unleſs by ſome ſpecial Act of Parliament for that Purpoſe?* —— And ſo, Honeſt *Country-man*, I bid thee a Hearty farewell till our next meeting, and with thee a Merry *Chriſtmas*, and a Happy *New-Tear*, with all my Soul.

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